

The Republicans like to make a big thing about the statements from some people about defunding the police. I never supported that, and most of the people I know had nothing to do with it. But here they are defunding the police themselves and voting against the American Rescue Plan.

That plan is going to provide law enforcement more resources. We want that money to be spent properly, and we certainly want law enforcement to discharge their duties in a professional way. But additional resources can be and will be used effectively. I am sorry that not one single Republican Senator voted for that plan. I think it is not defunding the police; it is defending the police with the American Rescue Plan provisions.

President Biden's American Jobs Plan, which we are now going to consider soon, is an opportunity for us to consider \$5 billion to fund community violence prevention programs. I have introduced my bill, the RISE from Trauma Act, which would implement the proposal by funding trusted members of the community to tackle trauma and the pain that is at the root of violence.

Last month, the President announced the creation of a new strike force, to be headed by the Justice Department, that will crack down on illegal drug trafficking in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay area, and Washington, DC. I support this step.

#### NOMINATION OF DAVID H. CHIPMAN

Madam President, we have before us a nomination. I am not sure when it will be called, but it was a product of our Judiciary Committee. David Chipman was nominated by President Biden, to serve as the next Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Madam President, you know the answer to this question but most don't: When was the last time that Agency had a Director chosen by Congress through the orderly process? Well, it was about 6 years ago. That was the last time. It turned out to be the only time in the history of the Agency.

But why would an Agency of the government go on for years without a duly selected Director? Well, it was an intentional strategy by those gun groups to make sure that this Agency, as important as it is, didn't have a leader, and as a consequence was not as effective as it should be.

David Chipman was born in New Hampshire and has a B.S. from American University and an M.S. from Johns Hopkins. In our committee, we recognized the fact that he had 25 years of law enforcement experience. He is a responsible gun owner himself, and he has advocated for commonsense gun safety measures.

I think he is well qualified to serve as the head of the ATF. He spent decades working in that Agency, including serving as a special agent in Virginia, Texas, and Michigan. He would be the

first former ATF agent to head the Bureau, and this experience has equipped him with the skills he needs.

Chipman would only be the second confirmed Director in the Agency's history, as I mentioned. A lifelong gun owner, he knows firsthand the responsibility of gun ownership and the commonsense safety measures that go hand in hand with it.

He is uniquely positioned to counter a false narrative, pushed by the gun lobby, that he has a radical or somehow contrary to the Second Amendment view.

Chipman's knowledge of firearms and gun policy is unparalleled. He gained his insight not only working in law enforcement but also as an adviser to one of the Nation's top violence prevention organizations.

Congress and the Biden administration must take action to address gun violence in the city of Chicago, in the city of Springfield, IL, and all across this Nation. It is an urgent issue for all of us. That is why we should pick, as quickly as we can, a leader like David Chipman to lead the ATF Agency.

#### CLIMATE

Madam President, I will conclude by saying that this has been an unusual weather time in our country. We have seen things happening that are unparalleled in history—extreme weather in the Chicago area, tornadoes, to the baking 120-degree heat of the Northwest, to even a warning of a tornado here in Washington, DC. Strange things are occurring.

When you hear about these wildfires in California and Oregon, there is a natural inclination, if you don't live in that area, to dismiss them, to say: That didn't happen in my backyard—not in my backyard. Well, I have to say, we ought to wake up to the reality. Extreme weather and the results of global warming are coming to everyone's backyard. We have to come to the realization that it is time for us to prepare this Nation to turn back the impacts of climate change and global warming. Those fires are burning in California and Oregon, but they reflect the situation which is dangerous for all of us.

We are waiting to investigate and bring in engineering groups with the Surfside, FL, building collapse, that terrible tragedy which claimed, I am sure, I am sad to say, over 100 lives. We think climate change may have had something to do with that. The rising water table and the infiltration of saltwater from the oceans may have caused the decline in the stability of the foundation of that building. We will only know after the engineers can look at it more closely.

In the area of the Great Lakes—we love our Great Lakes—Lake Michigan is one of the most beloved aspects of our State and in the city of Chicago, but 2 or 3 days ago, in the New York Times, there was a front-page story about what is happening with the Great Lakes and the instability of that

region. We are taking it seriously. I am glad to say that President Biden has joined in restoring the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which President Obama began.

The Great Lakes are a great asset, but they are also a great reminder that we all face climate change in our own home areas.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. DUCKWORTH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NOMINATION OF JEN EASTERLY

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise in support of Jen Easterly's nomination to serve as Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, commonly referred to as CISA.

Before the Senate adjourned for the July 4 holiday, I stood right here and urged my colleagues to confirm her for this vital position. I was disappointed that a Republican colleague blocked Ms. Easterly's swift confirmation at that time, but I appreciate that he has now resolved his concerns and that we can move forward today.

I warned that, without confirming Ms. Easterly, we risked leaving ourselves vulnerable to cyber attacks, and in the 2 weeks since I last called on my colleagues to approve this critical nomination, nation-state actors and criminal organizations have continued their relentless targeting of the United States.

Over the July 4 weekend, we learned that U.S. software company Kaseya was the target of a major ransomware attack that has impacted hundreds and possibly thousands of businesses and organizations worldwide. Days later, we saw reports that a Republican National Committee contractor had been attacked in an attempt to target the RNC.

Unfortunately, these are only the latest of several recent cyber attacks that threaten our government, critical infrastructure, and key industries. These attackers will stop at nothing to infiltrate our networks, and we urgently need qualified, Senate-confirmed cyber security leaders in place to fight back.

With more than three decades of cyber security expertise and service in the public and private sectors, Ms. Easterly is more than qualified to lead CISA. We need her in place immediately so she can get to work with agencies, businesses, and others to recover from recent cyber attacks and to strengthen cyber security defenses before the next attack.

I appreciate that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have withdrawn their objections and that the